

I claim

1. A machine for marking skins or other articles in sheet form by perforation, comprising:

- a support structure for m rows each formed from n vertical punches, m and n

5 being whole numbers with $m \geq 1$ and $n \geq 2$, the upper ends of said punches being inserted into holes of a corresponding plate elastically supported on said support structure, each lower end of said vertical punches of each row interacting with a corresponding wedge element of a plurality of n.m wedge elements, each wedge element being operable by an axial movement of a
10 corresponding operating bar to position said punches between two end positions in which the punches remain fixed, in one of which a cutting edge of said punches is substantially at the level of an upper surface of said plate and in the other of which said cutting edge of said punches lies inside said hole, the distance between the two end positions of said cutting edge
15 corresponding with the thickness of said operating bars for said wedges,

- moving means for said bars,

- a counterplate facing said plate and movable vertically towards and away from said plate to cause this latter to descend together with a skin retained between them towards said punches and obtain perforation by only those
20 punches which have their cutting edge at the level of the upper surface of the plate and which have been positioned in an arrangement corresponding to an alphanumeric character in accordance with a predetermined code.

2. A machine as claimed in claim 1, wherein the wedges which operate the punches of each row are positioned in a single horizontal plane and are
25 mutually adjacent.

3. A machine as claimed in claim 2, wherein said operating bars are shaped such that at that end which acts on said wedges they lie in a single plane and are mutually adjacent.

4. A machine as claimed in claim 3, wherein at the opposite end to that
5 which acts on said wedges, said bars are provided with articulated joints for their connection to the moving means.

5. A machine as claimed in claim 1, wherein the operating bars for the punches of any row are superposed on the bars of the punches of the other rows.

10 6. A machine as claimed in claim 1, wherein each punch consists of a cylindrical body provided at its upper end with a cutting part, said counterplate comprising a number of holes equal to the number of said punches and having their axis aligned with the punch axis.

7. A machine as claimed in claim 1, wherein said counterplate comprises
15 collimation elements cooperating with corresponding holes provided in said plate.

8. A machine as claimed in claim 1, wherein said plate comprises holes for housing reference punches, the cutting ends of which are essentially coplanar with the upper surface of said plate when said plate is in its unstressed
20 configuration.

9. A machine as claimed in claim 1, wherein said moving means consist of pneumo-hydraulic cylinders.

10. A machine as claimed in claim 9, wherein said cylinders are provided with conduits opening into a single receiver and are provided with solenoid
25 shut-off valves.

11. A machine as claimed in claim 10, wherein said solenoid valves are controlled by an electronic system.
12. A machine as claimed in claim 1, wherein said counterplate is rigid with piston of a cylinder, the stroke of said piston being controlled by a pedal unit.
- 5 13. A machine as claimed in claim 1, wherein said punches consist of cylinders with conical ends and with an internal discharge channel, said counterplate being constructed of soft material, preferably nylon.